

ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

BIRD PORTRAITS IN COLOR. Text by Thomas S. Roberts. Revised by Walter J. Breckenridge, Dwain W. Warner, and Robert W. Dickerman. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1960: $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$ in., vi + 105 unnumbered pp., 92 col. pls. \$5.95.

"Bird Portraits in Color" was in constant demand from the day it was published in 1934. Soon out of print, it was reprinted in 1936 and went out of print again in 1944. Since that time any copy for sale by book dealers commanded a price far exceeding the figure (\$3.50 in hard covers) at which it was originally listed. This bit of history bears evidence enough of the book's usefulness. Now, fortunately, "Portraits" has been reprinted a second time and again at a modest price, in this instance through the generous financial support of an admirer of its author, the late Dr. Thomas S. Roberts.

"Portraits" contains all of the 92 plates (by six artists) from Roberts' "The Birds of Minnesota" (University of Minnesota Press, 1932). Depicted are 295 bird species, representing nearly all the species in the United States north of Kentucky and Missouri and east of the Rocky Mountains. Opposite each plate is a page of text, giving information on size, range, plumages and molts, songs and calls, nests, and eggs of the species shown. All the material has been brought up to date by the three revisers. The species on the plates are indexed in the back of the book. Nomenclature follows the fifth edition (1957) of "The AOU Checklist," although in the case of common names, not always strictly. Hyphens are used in many names (e.g., "Golden-eye," "Yellow-legs," etc.), while "Wood Pewee" and "Phoebe" are given for the names of the Eastern Wood Pewee and Eastern Phoebe.

The reprinting of the color plates is exceedingly good; almost all have the same brightness, richness of color, and clarity that they have in "The Birds of Minnesota."—OLIN SEWALL PETTINGILL, JR.

ICELAND SUMMER: ADVENTURES OF A BIRD PAINTER. By George Miksch Sutton. Illustrated by the author. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1961: $5\frac{3}{4} \times 9\frac{1}{4}$ in., xviii + 253 pp., 17 full-page illus. (1 col.). \$5.95.

It is the irrepressible spirit of youth in George Miksch Sutton which makes all of his books so fascinating. That spirit, coupled with his great knowledge of birds, his wonderful sense of adventure, his never-satisfied curiosity, and above all, his extraordinary ability to paint, all make "Iceland Summer" a most attractive and interesting book.

Dr. Sutton has for a good part of his life been fascinated with the idea of writing a book about arctic birds. Toward this end he has traveled widely in the northern parts of the western hemisphere and he has written much about them. He has not, however, had an opportunity to work in the Old World Arctic, especially Siberia. Therefore, the possibility of a trip to Iceland with Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., and his wife seemed the perfect 1958-step in the right direction.

While there he fell in love with the people and the country. He was able to paint a good deal, mostly from live bird models, and—being Dr. Sutton—found all manner of adventures to give zest to the summer project. All of these combined to make "Iceland Summer" a most profitable and entertaining book. It fits into a singular niche in that it is most informative, a pleasure to read, and it offers much of beauty for the eyes to behold. Unlike the usual specialist moving into a new country, Dr. Sutton seems to notice just about everything around him.

He visited most of the important representative habitats, thus his account is well-rounded